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able Hohenzollern rulers. In the case of each king he gives attention about equally to three subjects: the personality of the king and his court, the organic growth of state machine and economic prosperity at home, and the unravelling of diplomatic relations abroad. No work could be better adapted to make Frenchmen understand the origins of the country from which they have suffered so much.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Marlborough and the Rise of the British Army. By C. T. ATKINSON. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1921. Pp. xviii, 546. \$4.50.)

FOR the first time historical research has handled Marlborough's life completely and correctly. Coxe, Lediard, and more recently the fragmentary Taylor, were enthusiasts. Macaulay was partizan, too concerned with Marlborough's delinquencies to credit properly his military greatness. Fortescue's and Walton's histories of the British army are military histories rather than biographies and give scant attention to political and social events. It has been much regretted that Viscount Wolseley, "the best read soldier of his time", never completed his work; but the deficiency has now been made good. A thorough historical scholar and a practical soldier, Mr. Atkinson has produced a volume which should be an authority.

The book is well written, in a measured tone. Its arrangement and emphasis are excellent. It has not the flare of eulogistic writing, nor the errors. It does not excuse Marlborough's sins, nor apologize. It merely holds that Marlborough "did at the same time render great services to his country" (p. 511).

The book is biography. As Marlborough's life was inextricably concerned with the politics of the period and with new developments in the army, it is likewise a noteworthy contribution to contemporaneous history. The modern British army dates from Marlborough's time. Present regiments were formed in his day. The legends of Blenheim, Oudenarde, Ramillies, and Malplaquet were created by him. While Louis of Baden was content with a siege (p. 240), Marlborough was making rapid marches (pp. 256, 335, 346, 385, 420, 446), taking advantage of terrain (p. 291), moving quickly into battle (p. 343), attacking simultaneously at more than one point (p. 291), fitting all detachments into combat so as best to advance the common plan (pp. 225, 290), aiming to annihilate his enemy's field army rather than capture forts (p. 396)—creating a new form of strategy and tactics (p. 177). No more would wars be formal affairs with precise plans. Henceforth a battle was to be a conflict of wills and matching of wits. Marlborough indeed "taught the doubtful battle how to rage". Men found that lines and formations alone could not win a battle. Vauban's treatises on fortifications ceased to comprise the whole of war. Marlborough takes place in a

rational history of military thought. The line runs straight through Condé, Turenne, Napoleon, and Wellington down to Foch. All of this Mr. Atkinson makes plain.

This biographer has had an advantage over his predecessors, in matters other than military, too. He has had access to authorities which in 1899 Fortescue (*Hist. Brit. Army*, I. 553) did not know existed, notably the Orkney letters published in the *English Historical Review* in 1904, and the material uncovered by the Historical Manuscripts Commission. By using these as well as the usual sources, Mr. Atkinson has corrected many misconceptions, among others, misconceptions concerning Blenheim (p. 232), Ramillies (p. 289), and Malplaquet (p. 401). He has still kept his head and not spoken with exaggeration. His work is well documented and provided with an adequate array of foot-notes. He has shown excellent judgment in his use of foot-notes, too. When a man's career has been the subject of several biographical studies, there are many common facts concerning him well known and universally accepted. Mr. Atkinson has recognized this fact and wisely refrained from setting forth a superfluity of notes, and has given only references to statements and interpretations which are new, important, or original. Thus he has saved the appearance of his pages and brought into clearer contrast the number of real contributions to the subject for which he himself is responsible.

A bibliographical note and an index are serviceable. A simple tabulated list of authorities checked with the abbreviations later to be used therefor, might have been added to simplify the work of following references. The maps, of which there are several, are adequate.

A few mechanical errors appear. On one page (p. 253) is a foot-note and no corresponding mark in the text; on another (p. 267) two passages similarly marked and only one foot-note for the two. Burnet is referred to without designation as to which edition (p. 162). Most of the references to the preliminary pages, numbered with Roman numerals, are incorrect (*e.g.*, on pp. viii and 249, and in the index under Lloyd, Portland, Blackader, and Brodrick)—a trivial thing, perhaps, but especially confusing because these are cross-references to bibliographical data.

ELBRIDGE COLBY.

Histoire Religieuse de la Révolution Française. Par PIERRE DE LA GORCE, de l'Académie Française. Tomes III. and IV. (Paris: Plon-Nourrit et Cie. 1921. Pp. 598; 379. 12 fr. each.)

THE third volume of this history is for the specialist rather more important than any other and has been widely read by those interested in the present transitional epoch of Roman Catholicism in France, being already in the seventh edition. Throughout the period which it covers, from 1792 to the upheaval of Thermidor, the constitutional clergy seem to meet with